

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Assessment and Watershed Protection Program Grants (AWPPGs)

Request for Initial Proposals (RFIP) for FY 2004

Announcement Number 2004-1

May 6, 2004

SUMMARY: Request for Initial Proposals (RFIP) Announcement Number 2004-1.

Assessment and Watershed Protection Program Grants (AWPPGs) provide eligible applicants an opportunity to conduct projects that promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution. These grants will be awarded under the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 66.480, which can be found at <http://www.cfda.gov/>. The two main goals of the AWPPGs include supporting a watershed approach to better address water quality problems in the U.S. and building the capacity of all levels of government to develop and implement effective, comprehensive programs for watershed protection, restoration, and management. These goals are tied into EPA's Strategic Plan, which includes restoring and maintaining oceans, watersheds, and their aquatic ecosystems to protect human health, support economic and recreational activities, and provide healthy habitat for fish, plants, and wildlife. States and local governments, federally recognized Indian Tribes, territories and possessions of the U.S., including the District of Columbia, interstate associations or intertribal consortia, public or private nonprofit, nongovernmental institutions and individuals are eligible to apply.

This document describes the grant selection and award process for eligible applicants interested in applying for FY 2004 AWPPGs.

DATE: The deadline for EPA receipt of preproposals in electronic form is 11:59 p.m. on June 21, 2004. Preproposals received after this deadline will not be considered.

ADDRESSES: The preproposals must be submitted in their entirety in electronic form to AWPPG@epa.gov. All subject headings of the email submissions must be marked

ATTN: Assessment and Watershed Protection Grants Preproposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information regarding this Request for Initial Proposals (RFIP), or for preproposal assistance, contact Katie Flahive, USEPA, 1301 Constitution Ave, NW (4503T), Washington, DC, 20004 telephone: 202-566-1206; e-mail: Flahive.Katie@epa.gov. For contact information regarding specific Program Priorities, please see Section VII.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction: Funding Opportunity Description

A. The Assessment and Watershed Protection Program Grants

The AWPPGs provide States and local governments, Federally recognized Indian Tribes, territories and possessions of the U.S., including the District of Columbia, interstate associations or intertribal consortia, public or private nonprofit, nongovernmental institutions and individuals (hereafter referred to as eligible applicants) an opportunity to carry out projects to develop and refine comprehensive watershed programs. The projects that eligible applicants can undertake to develop and refine their comprehensive watershed programs are diverse. In the past, award recipients have pursued a wide range of activities, such as developing management tools, advancing

scientific and technical tools for protecting watershed health, improving availability of data and information about watersheds, and training watershed managers and the public about watershed management.

The statutory authority for AWPPGs is Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Section 104(b)(3) of the CWA restricts the use of these grants to the following: conducting or promoting the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution. These grants may not be used solely for the operational support of specific watershed projects, e.g., support for the implementation of individual watershed projects or the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for specific water bodies or for in-depth monitoring (beyond traditional volunteer monitoring programs) for individual water bodies. All projects funded through this program must contribute to the overall development and improvement of watershed programs.

The general award and administration process for AWPPGs are governed by regulations at 40 CFR part 30 (Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations) and 40 CFR part 31 (States, Tribes, interstate agencies, intertribal consortia and local governments). This RFIP outlines the administrative and programmatic procedures specific to the AWPPGs.

B. Goals for 2004

The goal of the EPA AWPPGs includes supporting a watershed approach to better address water quality problems in the U.S. and building the capacity of all levels of government to develop and implement effective, comprehensive programs for watershed

protection, restoration, and management. The program areas central to achieving this goal are: nonpoint source control, monitoring and assessment, watershed planning including development and implementation of TMDLs, restoration, public-private partnerships, volunteer monitoring, lakes, and coordination among agencies with watershed or watershed-related programs.

II. Award Information: Statutory Authority and Eligibility Requirements

A. Authority

EPA will award the AWPPGs under the authority of CWA Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act. Regulations pertaining to EPA grants and other assistance agreements are in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts, 30 and 31.

All costs incurred under this program must be allowable under the applicable OMB Cost Circulars: A-87 (States and local governments), A-122 (nonprofit organizations), or A-21 (universities). Copies of these circulars can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/>. In accordance with EPA policy and the OMB circulars, as appropriate, any recipient of funding must agree not to use assistance funds for lobbying, fund-raising, or political activities (*e.g.*, lobbying members of Congress or lobbying for other Federal grants, cooperative agreements or contracts).

B. Eligible Activities

CWA Section 104(b)(3) authorizes the Agency to award grants to conduct projects that promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of

water pollution. Grant funds awarded as part of the AWPPGs may only be used for these activities and all grant-funded activities must support the workplan submitted.

These activities seek to advance the state of knowledge, gather information, or transfer information. Demonstrations are projects that exhibit new or experimental technologies, methods, or approaches and disseminate the results so that others can benefit from the knowledge gained. Research projects may include the application of established practices when they contribute to learning about an environmental concept or problem.

C. Funding Availability

EPA expects approximately \$900,000 available in FY 2004. EPA anticipates that typical grant awards for the selected projects will in most cases range from \$5,000 to \$100,000 depending on the amount requested and the overall size and need of the project.

D. Grants and Cooperative Agreements

The AWPPGs fund both grants and cooperative agreements; however, most awards in the past have been made as cooperative agreements.

E. Multi-Year Project Periods

EPA normally funds grants and cooperative agreements on a 12-month basis. However, EPA can negotiate the project period with each applicant based on project requirements. The project period for AWPPGs should be no more than four years, however, there is no guarantee that future money beyond the first year of funding will be available. For grants and cooperative agreements that have been approved for multi-year project periods, the second, third, or fourth year of funding will not be competitive with the preproposals submitted to future RFIPs, and the funding for those multi-year project

period grants or cooperative agreements is not included in the funding estimates listed in this RFIP.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Under CWA Section 104(b)(3), the following entities are eligible to receive grants: States and local governments, Federally recognized Indian Tribes, territories and possessions of the U.S., including the District of Columbia, interstate associations or intertribal consortia, public or private nonprofit, nongovernmental institutions and individuals.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

No cost share or match is required, however, projects with matching funding, in-kind services or other support, will be favored. Matching funds are considered grant funds and are included in the total award amount. Any restrictions on the use of grant funds (i.e., prohibition of land acquisition with grant funds) also apply to the use of matching funds. They may be used for the reasonable and necessary expenses of carrying out the work plan.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

For response to this RFIP, use of agency forms is not necessary; the format of the preproposal is given in this RFIP. For final proposals, if requested, the standard application forms will be furnished by the EPA. These are required for proposals by OMB Circular No. A-102 and A-110, and must be used for this program. EPA requires final applications to be made on Standard Form 424. Requests for application kits must

be submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency, Grants Administration Division, 3903R, Washington, DC 20460 or through the appropriate EPA Regional Office listed in Appendix IV of the Catalog. Additional information on the EPA grant package can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/how_to_apply.htm/. For final proposals, grant applicants will be required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D & B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. Organizations can receive a DUNS number in one day, at no cost, by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or by visiting <http://www.dnb.com/>.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

AWPPG preproposals from eligible applicants will be reviewed through EPA Headquarters. Only applications following the required format discussed in this Section will be accepted for review. Interested applicants must submit a preproposal, which includes a cover sheet (one page), abstract (one page), and work plan (limited to four pages). The entire document must be double-spaced and have margins of no less than 1-inch. The preproposals must be submitted in their entirety in electronic form to AWPPG@epa.gov. All subject headings of the email submissions must be marked **ATTN: Assessment and Watershed Protection Grants Preproposal**. The submissions may be in only Word, WordPerfect, or Adobe Acrobat format. In the event of difficulty, please contact Katie Flahive (contact information in Section VII.). Hard copy preproposals are unnecessary. All plans that will be accepted for review must include the following eight components.

1. Cover Sheet. The cover sheet must include only all of the following information:

Name of applicant organization:

Response to Announcement Number 2004-1

Date of submission:

Name of applicant contact person:

Address:

Telephone number:

Email:

Amount Requested: \$

Application for Funds from (choose one) the Watershed Program, the Nonpoint Source Program, or the Monitoring, Assessment, and Data Systems Program.

Response to Priority Number ____.

2. *Abstract.* A summary of key objectives and final products, in 150 words or less.

3. *Workplan Description.* The narrative description of the workplan components is limited to a total of four pages, and preproposal components 4-8 must be addressed in those four pages. The workplan should include a description of project tasks and an explanation of how the project will contribute to developing or improving a watershed program.

4. *Time-line.* This should span a timeframe no longer than 12 months. If the preproposal is for a multi-year agreement, the timeline for the entire period of application, broken into 12-month increments must be included.

5. *Budget and estimated funding amounts for each work plan component.* The following Table with budget breakdown must be included.

Object Class Categories	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
a. Personnel	\$	\$	\$

Object Class Categories	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
b. Fringe Benefits	\$	\$	\$
c. Travel	\$	\$	\$
d. Equipment	\$	\$	\$
e. Supplies	\$	\$	\$
f. Contractual	\$	\$	\$
g. Construction	\$	\$	\$
h. Other	\$	\$	\$
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of a-h)	\$	\$	\$
j. Indirect Charges	\$	\$	\$
k. TOTALS (sum of i and j)	\$	\$	\$

6. Performance evaluation process and reporting schedule.

7. Description of applicant credentials.

8. Contact information. Contact information for the Program Manager, Grant Project Lead Manager, and Account Manager.

C. Submission Dates and Times

The deadline for EPA receipt of preproposals in electronic form to AWPPG@epa.gov is 11:59 p.m. on June 21, 2004. Preproposals received after this deadline will not be considered. The applicant will receive a notice of receipt from AWPPG@epa.gov.

D. Intergovernmental Review

Compliance with E.O. 12372 (<http://www.cfda.gov/public/eo12372.htm/>) is required. Most States have acted to establish a review and comment system in response to E.O. 12372 (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html>). In such cases, applications for grants will need to meet the requirements of the intergovernmental consultation process established by a particular State and its local governments before Federal agencies take action on the application.

E. Funding Restrictions

Based on experience gained from previous years and policy and regulation, we offer the following comments/restrictions on funding eligibility.

- This grant program cannot fund land acquisition or purchase of easements. However, this program may support research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and study efforts directed at identifying areas for acquisition, which are intended to help address water pollution problems.
- While contractual efforts can be a part of these grants, each recipient must be significantly involved in the administration of the grant. EPA recommends that recipients use no more than 50% of the grant funds to contract with non-governmental entities. However, if the applicant wants to exceed this limit, the applicant may submit a written justification for greater involvement by non-governmental contractors. EPA will evaluate the need for greater contractual participation and may approve the request if they agree that there is adequate justification to exceed the 50% limit. For the purposes of this requirement, EPA will not consider work performed under a contract with other S/T/LG agencies, interstate associations, and intertribal consortia as a prohibition to this

requirement. If another S/T/LG agency, interstate agency, or intertribal consortia is doing the contractual work, this should be clearly indicated in the grant application.

- Grant funds cannot be used to fund an honorarium under this program.
- Any fieldwork or research-type activities are limited to activities that have a direct, demonstrated link to program development or refinement included in the application.
- Purchase/lease of vehicles (including boats, motor homes) and office furniture is not eligible for funding under this program.
- Recipients should not anticipate additional funding beyond the initial award of funds for a specific project. Eligible applicants should request the entire amount of money needed to complete the project in the original grant application. Each grant should produce a final, discrete product. Funding and project periods can be for more than one year.

V. Application Review Information

A. Preproposal Review Period - Eligibility Criteria

Each of the preproposals will be reviewed by a team of Headquarters EPA staff and ranked according to the criteria (followed by relative review weight):

- The preproposal adheres to the scope of this RFIP, responds directly to one or more of the program priorities (listed in V.A.1., V.A.2., and V.A.3.), is clearly written, and all requested materials are included (30%);
- There is a high probability for positive environmental results in the short- and long-term (20%);

- The watershed/project area is recognized as a state-wide priority by other federal, state and local agencies having authority and responsibilities pursuant to the Clean Water Act, and documentation of such priority and other on-going efforts that will leverage the success of your project is provided (15%);
- The preproposal shows transferability of results and/or methods to other State, Tribe, or Local Government (S/T/LG), or other watershed groups (15%);
- The applicant has planned for significant financial and personnel contribution and incorporates a wide variety of public, private, and non-profit participation (10%);
- If data is collected, the preproposal adheres to QA/QA procedures and EPA's environmental data standards (<http://www.epa.gov/edsc>) (5%); and
- For applicants who have received prior funds from EPA, previous projects have had successful outcomes (5%).

1. Watershed Program

Award Applicants to the Watershed Grant Program should include in the work plan information to support one or more of the following eight areas that fall under the mission of this program. Please contact Tim Icke with specific questions on these program priorities (contact information in Section VII.).

1. Water Quality Trading: Provide support to encourage water quality trading at the state, local and watershed levels. These efforts may include national conferences or workshops on trading implementation, seminars for EPA and/or state staff, state or watershed trading guidance, trading demonstration projects in a watershed or development of technical or informational tools to implement trading.

2. Erosion and Sediment Control Management: Design and pilot test a training program for state, local and private individuals (e.g., contractors/operators) who could benefit from the knowledge and application of non-structural methods to meet soil erosion, sediment control and stormwater management requirements related to construction (earth disturbing) activities. The course should address all phases of the construction process and offer useful techniques (including technical, financial and administrative) necessary to provide adequate environmental protection.

3. Fostering Community-based Efforts to Achieve Water Quality Standards (WQS): Working to encourage/assist stakeholders in a number of watersheds to develop holistic watershed plans focused on achieving/maintaining WQS. (The essential elements of such plans are described in EPA's 2004 CWA Section 319 grant guidance.) Selected watersheds should include ones with: 1) waters listed on the state CWA Section 303(d) list, and/or 2) waterbodies for which one or more TMDLs have been completed. Such model plans should address not only impaired waters within the watershed but also prevention of degradation of waters currently meeting state water quality standards.

For waters with already-completed TMDLs, the focus should be on development of plans aimed at achieving the load reductions called for in the TMDLs, which in turn should lead to achievement of state WQS.

With regard to listed waters for which needed TMDLs have not yet been completed, such efforts could include development of watershed plans including TMDL-like analyses. (The process whereby a variety of stakeholders come together to develop plans that include such de-facto draft TMDLs is one version of the so-called 3rd party TMDL process) Where such TMDL-like analysis will be developed as part of the

broader plan, particular attention should be given to reaching consensus among interested and affected stakeholders with regard to allocation of the total acceptable pollutant load (the TMDL “cap”) among sources of the pollutant of concern.

EPA is also interested in proposals aimed at fostering, in watersheds of CWA Section 303(d) listed waters for which TMDLs have not yet been done, the development of watershed plans, which, if fully implemented, would result in attainment of state WQS, prior to the date when the TMDLs are scheduled to be developed. (By actually attaining WQS for a waterbody, such efforts will allow removal of the waterbody from Category 5 of the Integrated List, and placing it in Category 1 or 2.) Also of interest of proposals aimed at fostering and supporting development of watershed plans of sufficient detail to merit moving the impaired waterbody off of Category 5 and into Category 4b (other controls will result in attaining WQS).

Special consideration will be given to proposed activities aimed at fostering watershed planning that addresses not only issues within a particular watershed, but also far-field effects, in waterbodies downstream from the watershed. For example, projects that not only reduce loadings of phosphorous and sediments in agricultural watersheds of the Upper Mississippi basin, but also reduce transport of nitrogen out of the basin, and, ultimately, loadings into the Gulf of Mexico.

4. TMDL and Watershed Planning Training and Technical Support Centers:
Serving as point of contact for those needing various forms of assistance in the development and implementation of TMDLs, watershed plans consistent with EPA’s CWA Section 319 grant guidance, and other comprehensive watershed strategies aimed,

among other things, at meeting state WQS. Several types of activities can help provide such assistance.

a) Direct technical assistance: On-site support to States, Tribes, and watershed partnerships. Such projects involve highly technical TMDL developmental consultations on specific pollutant categories for both point and nonpoint sources.

b) Training: Providing training on TMDL program components involving drawing boundaries around the project area, scale issues, monitoring, data interpretation and management, modeling methods, allocation methods, effective management measures, public involvement, funding sources, and behavior change strategies. Such training could be provided at an academic institution and/or within specific watersheds and could include short-term intensive training as well as programs leading to earning of a degree or formal certification. Internship programs might also be a component.

c) Online clearinghouse: Through a website, provide a variety of information relevant to successful development and implementation of TMDLs and other kinds of watershed plans aimed at meeting WQS. Such information would include, but not be limited to: “model” TMDLs and watershed plans, online training modules and manuals, meta-studies of TMDLs and watershed plans, listings of live training courses, and links to other websites and other sources of information and assistance.

The scope of the training, technical support, and clearinghouse function efforts should encompass not only entire states, but also multi-state regions.

5. Meta-studies and other Program Analysis: Projects which would collect, organize, and assess information about existing TMDLs and TMDL implementation plans. These studies would examine representative sets of TMDLs and TMDL

implementation plans; summarize the contents of each document (key components, level of detail, etc); evaluate similarities and differences among TMDLs (and implementation plans) prepared in one state versus another; and, to the extent practicable, identify characteristics of TMDLs and TMDL implementation plans associated with successful achievement with load reductions leading to Water Quality Standards attainment.

6. Watershed Restoration: Provide support for a national workshop to bring together experts on restoration techniques for floodplains, wetlands, streams and riparian areas. The workshop is intended to foster discussions to promote effective and integrated management principles for restoration of these resources in a watershed context, including the use of smart growth principles. An important goal of the workshop is to educate and share the knowledge of experts working in this field at the Federal, State, Tribal and local levels.

7. Adaptive Implementation: Solicit proposals concerning exploration of the effectiveness of adaptive implementation approaches for TMDLs and watershed plans. A cornerstone of the 2001 National Research Council review of the USEPA TMDL program was the recommendation for “adaptive implementation” of TMDLs in recognition of the need to resolve common inaccuracies in the predictions of water quality models. In essence, adaptive implementation means that the implementation strategy is designed not only to meet the water quality standard, but also to accommodate post-implementation monitoring that supports continuing model development, refinement of the water quality standard, and improved targeting of management actions over time.

8. Develop TMDL Success Stories Document – Thousands of TMDLs have recently been completed and many are now being implemented. Support is needed for

development of a TMDL success stories document highlighting TMDLs that are being, or have been, successfully developed across the country and how they are being implemented to achieve water quality goals.

2. Nonpoint Source Program

Award Applicants to the Nonpoint Source Grant Program should include in the work plan information to support one or more of the following eight areas that fall under the mission of this program. Please contact Katie Flahive with specific questions on these program priorities (contact information in Section VII.).

1. Formation of Subbasin Teams in the Mississippi River Basin in support of the Action Plan for Reducing, Mitigating, and Controlling Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico (2001). Action Item two in the Action Plan calls for States and Tribes in the Basin, in consultation with the Task Force, to establish Subbasin committees to coordinate implementation of the Action Plan by major sub-basins, including coordination among smaller watersheds, Tribes, and States.

2. LID Specifications for National Stores: Work in cooperation with one or more large, national big box stores to develop model Low Impact Development (LID) specifications and site designs to reduce runoff and impervious surfaces.

3. Develop Environmental Management Systems (EMS) systems for onsite waste treatment systems: Work in cooperation with organizations to promote inventory/inspection tracking EMS systems for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) in local watersheds and to implement and promote OW's OWTS management strategy.

4. Support Nonpoint Source and Watershed training in schools: Provide support for organizations to develop curriculum and projects to be implemented in school classrooms and to be an information purveyor and trainer for protecting water quality through environmental education.

5. Support Lakes Program in States: Provide support for one national meeting per year for State lake managers and others on topics such as urbanizing lakes and stormwater management, managing growth around lakes and reservoirs, nonpoint source management in lakes and watersheds, and other related water quality topics. State agencies with responsibilities for lake management, representatives of state or local lake associations, interested citizens and others are the target audience for these meetings. Project support may be multi-year.

6. Provide for the dissemination of technical knowledge and understanding regarding lakes, including document development, meetings, national Secchi Dip In, and other activities related to the protection and restoration of lakes.

7. Provide support for the development of expert computer-based tools to support watershed planning and implementation.

8. Technical Watershed Training Program: Develop a watershed training program, or significant components of a watershed training program, that focus on the technical aspects of watershed plan development and implementation. Components would include the range of aspects of watershed characterization and planning needed to identify, assess, and solve watershed problems in both urban and rural contexts. Courses would be designed particularly for professionals, advanced students, and watershed stakeholders. Courses would focus on strengthening students' abilities to understand and

apply the key technical tools that are critical to assessing watershed problems and devising appropriate solutions to those problems. Some courses may consist of intensive classroom-based study of a particular subject (e.g., watershed characterization, watershed modeling, or particular types of nonpoint source pollution) while others may focus intensively on field-application of learned principles and techniques through a case-study approach.

3. Monitoring, Assessment, and Data Systems Program

Award Applicants to the Monitoring and Assessment Grant Program should include in the work plan information to support one or more of the following four areas that fall under the mission of this program. Please contact Lynda Buie with specific questions on these program priorities (contact information in Section VII.).

1. Integrated State Monitoring Designs: Pilot projects demonstrating the use of various assessment and monitoring designs (e.g, combinations of targeted monitoring, landscape assessment models/tools, probability surveys, innovative technologies, other tools) for cost-effectively, efficiently answering questions about water quality conditions, restoring and protecting water quality, and gathering data needed to implement Clean Water Act responsibilities.

2. Support for Probability Surveys for Assessing Water Conditions: Projects include support for states, tribes, and interstate organizations to undertake or participate in probability surveys, including lab support, national meetings and or regional workshops on data analysis, or development of process/protocols for lake assessments.

3. Innovations/Demonstrations on Use of Data Systems: Examples include using EPA's WATERS for assessments and communicating environmental conditions to

the public; increasing state, tribal and interstate participation in the electronic submission of the Integrated Report and/or 305(b)/303(d) lists into the National Assessment Database; increasing use of STORET as water quality data repository; or developing and supporting watershed tools that utilize the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) geodatabase as the spatial framework for integrating and analyzing water quality-related information including impaired waters, assessed waters, water quality standards, etc.

4. Water Monitoring Councils/Consortia: Proposals for using collaborative mechanisms to develop, enhance, or implement comprehensive monitoring strategies.

B. Preproposal Review and Selection Process

Successful preproposals selected for funding will be chosen and the contacts will be notified within 60 days of the close of this request for proposals. Final grant proposals will be requested and the administrative process for grant award will begin.

VI. Award Administration and Information

A. Award Notices

All applicants will be notified by the appropriate EPA Headquarters on whether or not the applicant has been selected for funding. The notification is not an authorization to begin performance. The notice signed by the Grants Administration Division is the authorizing document to the applicant to begin performance.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The general award and administration process for AWPPGs are governed by regulations at 40 CFR part 30 (Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations) and 40 CFR part 31 (States,

Tribes, interstate agencies, intertribal consortia and local governments). Disputes will be resolved pursuant to the process described in 40 CFR 30.63 and Part 31, subpart F.

Certain quality assurance and/or quality control (QA/QC) and peer review requirements are applicable to the collection of environmental data. Applicants should allow sufficient time and resources for this process in their proposed projects.

Environmental data are any measurements or information that describe environmental processes, location, or condition; ecological or health effects and consequences; or the performance of environmental technology. Environmental data also include information collected directly from measurements, produced from models, and obtained from other sources such as data bases or published literature.

Recipients will be required to institute standardized reporting requirements into their workplans and include such costs in their budgets. All environmental data will be required to be entered into the Agency's Storage and Retrieval (STORET) data system. STORET is a repository for water quality, biological, and other physical data used by State environmental agencies, EPA and other Federal agencies, universities, private citizens, and many other organizations. Training on how to use STORET will be provided at the annual conference. Watershed organizations may also want to contact their State agency responsible for entering data into the system. More information about STORET can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/STORET/>.

Regulations pertaining to QA/QC requirements can be found in 40 CFR Parts 30.54 and 31.45. Additional guidance can be found at http://www.epa.gov/quality/qa_docs.html#noeparqt/.

C. Reporting

Project monitoring and reporting requirements can be found in 40 CFR 30.50-30.54, 40 CFR 31.40-31.45 and 40 CFR 40.160. In general, grantees are responsible for managing the day-to-day operations and activities supported by the grant to assure compliance with applicable Federal requirements, and for ensuring that established milestones and performance goals are being achieved. Performance reports and financial reports must be submitted quarterly and are due 30 days after the reporting period. The final report is due 90 days after the grant has expired. Grant managers should consult, and work closely with, their Regional contact person throughout the award period.

VII. Agency Contacts

For further information regarding this Request for Initial Proposals (RFIP), or for preproposal assistance, contact Katie Flahive, USEPA, 1301 Constitution Ave, NW (4503T), Washington, D.C., 20004 telephone: 202-566-1206; e-mail:

Flahive.Katie@epa.gov. For further information of the Watershed Program priorities, please contact Tim Icke, Watershed Branch, Icke.Tim@epa.gov, telephone: 202-566-1211, for further information of the Nonpoint Source Program priorities, please contact Katie Flahive, and for further information of the Monitoring, Assessment, and Data Systems Program priorities, please contact Lynda Buie, Monitoring Branch, Buie.Lynda@epa.gov, telephone: 202-566-1153.